

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4836

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2557

EXDIS

FROM AMB BENNETT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, AS, UR, UN

SUBJ: CYPRUS - SOVIET COMMENT ON UNFICYP

1. AUSTRALIAN PERM REP MCINTYRE STOPPED IN TO SEE ME TODAY TO RELATE A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH AMB. SAFRONCHUK, ACTING PERM REP OF USSR. MCINTYRE SAID HE KNEW WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED BY THE VIEWS ON PART OF SOME FAVORING EXPANSION OF UNFICYP TO INCLUDE CONTINGENTS FROM ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF OUR WORRY THAT THIS MIGHT GIVE GROUNDS TO SOVIETS FOR DEMANDING EE REPRESENTATION OR OTHER GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD IN UNFICYP, IN LIGHT OF THAT BACKGROUND HE THOUGHT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE HE HAD HAD YESTERDAY WITH SAFRONCHUK.

2. MCINTYRE SAID AUSTRALIA HAS FOR LONG TIME HAD PROBLEMS INVOLVING HER CONTINGENT OF POLICE IN UNFICYP, BASED ON THE FACT THAT POLICE ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS STATE GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY AGITATING TO HAVE THIS OR THAT INDIVIDUAL RETURN HOME FOR LOCAL ASSIGNMENTS. ACCORDINGLY, CANBERRA HAS HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICE BY AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

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DURING SECURITY COUNCIL LUNCHEON YESTERDAY MCINTYRE

WAS SEATED BY SAFRONCHUK AND THOUGHT HE WOULD SOUND HIM OUT ON THAT POSSIBILITY. HE EXPLAINED MATTER TO SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AND ASKED WHETHER SHIFT FROM AUSTRALIAN POLICE TO REGULAR MILITARY FORCES WOULD CAUSE SOVIET ANY PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO MCINTYRE, SAFRONCHUK'S REACTION WAS MILD AND MATTER OF FACT. HE RESPONDED THERE WERE ASPECTS OF THE UNFICYP OPERATION WITH DID NOT PLEASE THE SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER IN EVENT OF AUSTRALIAN'S DECISION TO REPLACE POLICE WITH REGULAR MILITARY PERSONNEL, THIS WOULD CAUSE SOVIETS NO PROBLEMS. MCINTYRE SAID THAT SAFRONCHUK'S EXACT WORDS WERE, "THAT WOULD BE A DETAIL WHICH WOULD NOT CONCERN US".

3. COMMENT: SAFRONCHUK, WHEN HE DOES NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO A QUERY LIKE THE ABOVE, VERY OFTEN RESPONDS IN JUST THE WAY HE DID. LATER WHEN HE CONSULTS WITH HIS ADVISERS OR MOSCOW HE DOES POSE SOVIET OBJECTIONS. THIS MAY BE A CASE IN POINT.
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